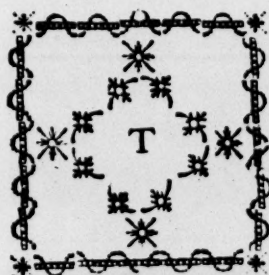

T H E
C R I S I S.

NUMBER XVI. *To be continued Weekly.*

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1775, [Price Two-pence Half-penny.]

—Parcere *Subjectis*, et debellare *Superbos*.—
VIRG.

To SUPPLICATION turn a *Princely* ear ;
Nor MURDER Subjects you have SWORN to
HEAR.



THE Motto of this Paper gives a Specimen of *Roman*, the proceedings against *America*, of *English* Policy.—There is, and must necessarily be, a Compact, either *express*, or *implied*, between every *Sovereign* and *Subject*. PROTECTION and OBEDIENCE are the mutual Stipulations, if the ONE is WITHDRAWN, the OTHER CEASES. Now, PROTECTION is certainly withdrawn, when Subjects, guilty of no HOSTILE, or REBELLIOUS Act, (I defy the *Ministry* to prove *one* against them) are nevertheless treated

treated (like the *Americans*) as ENEMIES and REBELS. *Administration*, most falsely and audaciously, stigmatize them with the Name of REBELS, merely to colour their own *base Designs*, and UNJUSTIFIABLE HOSTILITIES against their Fellow-Subjects; in whom they discern an *odious* Spirit of LIBERTY, which sets (*for them*) a DANGEROUS EXAMPLE to the Mother Country. The NOBLE FLAME is dying HERE, and it would be fatal to *Ministerial designs*, that it should be cherished in any Part of our Dominions.

The SPIRITED AMERICANS feel this Truth, they foresee, and wisely guard against the Danger. They have *convened*, and *consulted* for the PUBLIC SAFETY, like TRUE BRITONS. What then? Is such a *national, political Congress*, a *traiterous Association*? At SUCH a Time too, and in SUCH a Cause? Is the Situation and Circumstances of *America* (a NATION in point of Territory and Numbers) to be compared to that of *Truro* (a rotten Borough) in *Cornwall*? *Buffoonery in serious Cases*, *Doctor Johnson*, dishonours human Nature, and degrades human Understanding. Not even the Example of your Master, Doctor, who played *Falstaff*, after he had deluded a late unhappy LORD CHANCELOR of *England* into *Suicide*, can sanctify *dramatic Pleasantry*, at the Expence of LIFE, LIBERTY, PROPERTY, and a whole COUNTRY.

“ Kill the next *Piercy yourself*,” my Lord, is a species of *Drollery*, in a Case of BLOOD, unworthy even of a *Hackney Writer*; as to you, *Doctor Johnson*,—I do not expect you will write HONESTLY, but write *Sensibly*. Treat Subjects, (which might Affect even the Humanity of a *Scotchman*) no more ludicrously, indecently, unfeelingly, and abandonly.—With your leave, *Doctor*, I once more call *America* a NATION, and a great NATION; too far distant from her Mother Country, to receive from her either *immediate*, or *timely* Assistance on any sudden *foreign Attack*, SHE must, in such a Case, find Succour *within herself*, or PERISH. And shall

shall SHE, whose ABILITIES we do not know, whose Country, on an emergency, we cannot Defend, shall SHE be denied the BRITISH RIGHT of Representation in our Parliament, if SHE must be TAXED by our Parliament: suppose it will not avail her, if she had it, and she would, notwithstanding, be borne down and overwhelmed (as *Doctor Johnson* tells us) by a Majority of CORRUPT VOICES: yet, let her have the Pleasure of seeing the UNCLEAN Hands, if not the TRAITEROUS HEARTS, of those by whom she is to FALL.—It is her BIRTHRIGHT.—Shall SHE, so situated, so circumstanced, be denied the INHERENT PRIVILEGE, that INDUBITABLE RIGHT, of MEETING, CONSULTING, and RESOLVING for herself, at all Times, much less when we have *wantonly assailed her*? Is this REBELLION, let me coolly ask, Who was the *first Aggressor*? Did we *first consult, resolve, nay, act against America*, or *America against us*? Here *Administration* must be dumb.

IF UNWARRANTABLE OPPRESSION may be RESISTED, upon Revolution Principles, the Tye between *England* and *America*, is actually dissolved, our PROTECTION is withdrawn, our TYRANNIC Sword unsheathed, and *Common Sense* proclaims aloud, that OBEDIENCE in *America* is no more.

Why have we thus attacked her with *unmerited* Hostilities? because SHE would not PASSIVELY hold out her Hands to receive our CHAINS. SHE is Wise,—SHE saw those CHAINS forging, and CONSULTED.—SHE sees them now actually ready to be rivited, and is RESOLVED.

The Memory of a *Cromwell* warms my Soul! *America* wants *one* at this Instant.—Was there not a Period, long before those weak and wicked Monarchs *Charles the First*, and *James the Second*, were RESISTED, when *England* might have been truly said to have owed no Obedience to those Sovereigns? This cannot be denied.—But, *Subjects* were then to PRAY, and to APPEAL TO HEAVEN against TYRANTS,

RANTS, because they styled themselves GODS VICEGERENTS upon Earth. We seem to be coming round to the same Species of ADULATION and IDOLATRY again. As a *Revolutionist*, and a *Whig*. I hold a KING to be no more (upon Revolution Principles he is no more) than the HEAD CONSTABLE of the Realm. If he is a PATRIOT KING, he ought to be HONOURED and REVERED; but if he *is less than that*, he is no more to be WORSHIPPED than a CALF.

In the Case of *America* we have been the Aggressors *clearly*. The Protection stipulated by the Sovereign A T T H E ALTAR; extends to the LIVES, the LIBERTIES, and PROPERTY of the Subject. ALL THESE have been FIRST violated BY US, WANTONLY, WEAKLY, and WICKEDLY in *America*. Such a Violation is TREASON; (nay, start not, my Lords *Bute* and *Mansfield*) I say it is TREASON by the Laws of England.—*Laws* (my Lord *Mansfield*) not so easily *erased* as a *Record*. Whilst *these Laws* stand, every actual Breach of the COMPACT between King and People, committed by the SOVEREIGN, is TREASON AGAINST THE PEOPLE, and worse than TREASON; it is a Sin against HEAVEN, as well as against the SUBJECT. It is ROYAL PERJURY.

After *such a Breach*, does *Obedience* exist among Subjects? Answer me—not ye *Mansfields*, and *Machiavels*, but ye *venerable Shades*, who bled for LIBERTY and JUSTICE; even the *fanciful* Montesquieu (as *Doctor Johnson* calls him) would turn a PERJURED MONARCH pale with his Reply.—The Contention *now* (says the *Doctor*) is for *Power*. But is *Power* (before gentle Means are tried) to be maintained by FAMINE and by BLOOD! are the *earliest Supplications* of suffering Subjects to be *slighted, rejected, and derided*? Surely not.—Yet this has been the Fate of *America*. These humble Applications from *distressed America* have finally fallen down through the Fingers of MAJESTY, ADMINISTRATION, and the LEGISLATURE, to that consummate

mate Politician, and Representative of the three great Estates of this Kingdom, *Doctor Johnson*; who has the *unparalleled impudence* to treat them with low Humour, open Laughter, and Scurrility, in his late *patriotic* Publication, called *Taxation no Tyranny*. Thus, and only thus, have the *Americans* received a *verbal Answer*; received it from the *hackney Pen* of a *scribbling Prostitute*. They are, it seems, to receive a DECISIVE ONE in the FIELD.—Alas! had any TREASON been committed, *Bills of Attainder* would have passed? What? without hearing? Certainly. The consistent Spirit of Administration, and the MANLY PERSEVERANCE of their Sovereign, who confides in a *smuggled and corrupt Parliament*, would have requested it. Government now cannot be supported without *Injustice*. Besides, the *hungry Myrmidons*, the *ministerial Bloodhounds*, are looking for their Prey. They are already gaping for *forfeited Lands in America*.—Had there been but a glimmering of *Treason*, *Bills of Attainder* must have passed. The *Fishery Bill* is almost as penal. *America* is at this Moment suffering without *an hearing*, and *without a Crime*.

The Means used by *Administration* are, most humanely, and sagaciously, *Preventive*. They are now carrying *Famine* and *Desolation* into *America*, for fear she should resist, and punishing her as a REBEL, for fear she should Rebel. Her Supplications spurned, all conciliating Measures rejected, *despotic Measures* alone pursued, what resource has *She* now, but in *herself*? General Gage, the Commander first sent against them, has from natural Honour, Justice, and Humanity, exceeded his Commission: in his Heart he is more an *Advocate* than an *Enemy*.—He has *offended*.—He has desired to be *recalled*.—*Administration* are *disappointed* in their Man; yet dare not discover and declare their *Disappointment*, by *recalling* him. This General, with a *handful of Soldiers*, was wisely commissioned to *bully all America*.—He *disdained it*.—It is a Task fitter for *Burgoyne*, who has learned it at the gaming Table, and practised it at *Preston*. But this *favourite Commander* will make an admirable Figure for *Mat. Darley*,
left,

left, like a *solitary Quixote*, in the Field by his *honest Troops*, who will never sheath their Swords in the Bowels of their Countrymen. Had we acted like a Parent, we should have *heard*, admonished, advised, and (if possible) reclaimed, *mistaken America*; but *still protected her*. Instead of this, we have not only withdrawn our Protection (without trying one lenient Measure) *but commenced War* against her.—She *sensibly* withheld her former commerical Intercourses with *England*, and threatened to do the same with the *West India Colonies*.—Thus (says *Doctor Johnson*) they have defrauded their Creditors *here*, and condemned our Merchants to Bankruptcy. If Creditors and Merchants suffer, if Manufacturers complain, they must recur to the *first Cause*. These are the pernicious Effects of the wise Steps, taken first by the *ministerial Aggressors* in this Country. Nor is it to be wondered at, if the Consequence of these rash and unjust Proceedings by the *Harpies of Power*, should produce (in case of an approaching War with France and Spain) *a general Bankruptcy of this Nation*.—A Thought by no means *Chimerical*, but truly *Melancholy*; a Thought, which can neither be baffled by the buffoonery of *Hackney Scriblers*, the grave *Sarcasms* of *Statesmen*, or the *cruel Pleasantry* of *thoughtless Majesty itself*.

C A S C A.

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